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The Imputation of Unworthy Motives in Public Controversies.

A serious evil, characteristic of the discussion of matters of public interest at the present day, is the tendency to denounce the motives of any and every person who ventures to question the propriety or expediency of any measure whose advocates insist upon its adoption in the name of reform.

Take, for example, the so-called Public Utilities bill which has just been introduced into the Legislature. It contemplates many most sweeping and radical changes in the control of steam railroads, street railroads and gas and electric corporations throughout the State. It would virtually establish to a great extent government by commission instead of government by the Legislature. So far as the city of New York is concerned, it ignores the principle of home rule and confers upon the Governor the power to appoint powerful officers of local jurisdiction without reference to the will of the electors in the locality directly affected. These features of the measure may not prove to be insuperable objections to the wisdom of its enactment, but they certainly offer substantial grounds for discussing its expediency or propriety, at least as a whole and in all its details. An honest man and intelligent legislator, actuated only by a desire to promote the welfare of the State and the best interests of his constituents, might well deem it his duty not only to criticise the Public Utilities bill, but to oppose any such drastic and sweeping legislation; yet the tendency is to impugn the motives, and indeed almost directly question the integrity, of any one who ventures to raise his voice in criticism or condemnation of a bill which would do more to change the character of administrative government in this State than any which has been presented to the Legislature for years.

In our judgment this indiscriminate denunciation, either directly or by innuendo, is both unjustifiable and unjust. It tends to prevent the expression of views which if heard and heeded might well result in an improvement of the bill in matters of detail, even if the Legislature shall conclude that its general features are worthy of enactment. Critics are terrorized into silence for fear of being misjudged as to their motives and the result is that imperfections which might be remedied by a full and free discussion are left to be developed later by practical experience at the expense of the public.

A National Matter. All the Same.

Some of our Southern contemporaries. notably the Chattanooga Times and the Charlotte Observer, are discussing a rumor to the effect that Mr. WILLIAM R. HEARST and his publications are busily engaged in the Mississippi Senatorial campaign booming the cause of J. K. VARDAMAN as against that of the Hon. JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS. It is a curious fact, moreover, that both these newspapers, which by the way seem to indorse the candidacy of Mr. WILLIAMS, are moved to exonerate VARDAMAN from all responsibility in the premises and to express regret that he should have been made the victim of an undeserved suspicion. The Chattanooga Times says:

" Governor VARDAMAN, be it said to his credit. who is a candidate against Mr. WILLIAMS, has the reputation of being not only personally but po-Mtically clean, and he has shown no disposition to adopt the 'gutter' method of carrying forward his campaign.

The Charlotte Observer remarks:

"We believe that the Times does Governor VARDA MAN no more than justice. While he has played the demagogue at times, there are evidences of better things in him and the rôle of the blackguard has never been his. If, pursuing the tactics used in the Texas fight, bales of Hearst papers vilifying Mr. WILLIAMS and filled with 'exposures' of him are distributed broadcast in Mississippi, it is not sed that Governor VARDAMAN will lend to be supp his countenance-he may even repudiate such assistance. This would be our estimate of the Mississippi Governor."

All this is interesting enough as evidence of the esteem in which Governor VARDAMAN is held even by those who would like to see his present aspirations come to naught. It is timely, too, as enabling the country to assure itself that no "exposures" of the kind mentioned are likely to be ventilated in respect of Mr. WILLIAMS, since there is not even the most shadowy and impalpable justification for them, though the vilest

malice should inspire the wish. Utterances of this character, however, emanating from thoughtful and conservative Southern sources, are important at the moment. A Senator of the United States is a legitimate object of solicitude to the entire nation, and the American people everywhere are concerned in his moral, mental and patriotic equipment. His strength or weakness touches their most intimate interests and affects their most poignant apprehensions. An emerof ultimate exaltation or humiliate and degrade us beyond words.

What Mr. WILLIAMS is we know already. A cultivated, humorous and can only guess. That he is as clean and third, forming the third class. Under

honorable as Mr. WILLIAMS is sufficiently this scheme the largest taxpayers, who apparent. That he is a stronger and more potent personality seems more than probable. He labors under the disadvantage of having set himself against President ROOSEVELT, and that will naturally make for his injury. That he labors under the blight of an obsession in respect of Mr. BRYAN may or may not prove an incurable disqualification. But he fact remains, after the most careful process of cancellation, that here are two nonest and well meaning men as regards one of whom, Mr. WILLIAMS, we know verything there is to know, while about he other, Governor VARDAMAN, clusters he romance of incalculable guesswork Is it too much to suppose that VARDA-MAN, with his great intellectual equipment, will under favorable auspices outgrow the Bryan folly? Need we fear that with larger experience and with s closer contact he will come to understand THEODORE ROOSEVELT as he should be understood? And these two conditions once established, how long shall we hesi-

ing possibilities? In a narrow sense it is no business of ours. In another and broader sense the whole nation is interested in peopling the United States Senate with brave and honorable and incorruptible and serious -gentlemen.

tate between the WILLIAMS of fixed

limitations and the VARDAMAN of engag-

The Political Situation in Germany Although in the new Reichstag the Centrists, Socialists and Poles were not strong enough to oppose successfully the supplementary appropriation for German Southwest Africa, which consequently was voted, the stability of the combination which supports the Government is evidently precarious. What Herr BEBEL calls the "Hottentot bloc" is certain to dissolve when the National Liberals and Radicals, to whom Chancellor von Bulow owed his triumph at the recent election, demand the price of their

There is no doubt that the Radical or so-called Freisinnige party turned the scale in favor of the Government. As it was, the Centrists secured more seats than they had in the last Reichstag, and the aggregate popular vote polled by the Socialists was larger by about a quarter of a million than that obtained at the previous election. How then did it come o pass that instead of gaining seats the Socialists lost a large fraction of those which they previously had obtained? The answer is that the Radicals did it. The figures show that it would not have been needful for them to back Socialist candidates in order to beat Government nominees. They could have attained that end by simply abstaining from voting. What they did do was not only to give away to Government nominees a number of seats on the first ballot, but also, on the second ballot, by voting against Socialists, to place about forty seats in the hands of National-Liberals or Conservatives. Had only half of these seats gone to the Socialists, the Government would have had no majority. It was also the Radicals who on the organization of the House thwarted the claim of the Centre, as being numerically the strongest single party, to furnish the first chairman. A ing officer, and the two other chairmen were taken from the National-Liberals

On the face of things, then, there is no doubt about the existence of a close coalition between the National-Liberals and the Radicals. It is equally clear that the coalition was made with the knowledge of Chancellor von Bttrow and in his interest. A political party, however, like the Radical, which has hitherto insisted on economy in expenditure, does not suddenly renounce its fundamental principle, as it did by voting for the extra appropriation for Southwest Africa, unless it believes itself assured of obtaining an equivalent. We must bear in mind, moreover, that the services which the Radicals can render the Chancellor did not end with that particular vote. The budget for 1907-08 shows a deficit of more than \$80,000,000, which must be met by new taxes or by rigorous retrenchment. Yet it is taken for granted that the Radicals will vote for the Naval bill, including a demand for new battleships, and will acquiesce in the Government's intention to cover the deficit by fresh taxation.

and the Radical or Freisinnige party.

What was the promise made by Chancellor von Bülow, on the fulfilment of which the Radicals and the National-Liberals are counting? The question is easily answered if we bear in mind their primary aims. The first aim is a rec'istribution of seats in the Reichstag, the members of which are chosen in single electoral districts, which originally had 100,000 inhabitants apiece. These districts have not been revised for more than thirty years, and with the growth of the large cities, where the Radicals as well as the Socialists are strong, have become very unequal. In the case of Berlin in particular the disproportion is enormous. There is, in fact, no doubt that if seats were redistributed according to population the National-Liberals, Radicals and Socialists would have a substantial majority of the Reichstag.

No less important is the second object for which the Radicals contend, and in the attainment of which they can now manifestly rely on the cooperation of the National-Liberals. We refer to their demand for an abolition of the three class suffrage in Prussia and for a simultaneous redistribution according to population of the seats in the popular branch of the Prussian Landtag, where there has been no revision since 1860. It is well known that the members of the Prussian Chamber of Deputies are not chosen directly by the people, but by secondary electors, for which purpose districts are subdivided into a number of small gency is quite conceivable wherein the precincts, in each of which one elector courage, intelligence and devotion of a is chosen for every 250 souls. In each single Senator may lift us to the heights | primary electoral precinct, moreover, the voters are divided into three classes. according to the amount of taxes they pay: the largest taxpayers, who together pay a third of the taxes, forming biting gentleman, no doubt. He would the first class; the next largest taxpayilluminate any debating society and ers, paying a third of the taxes, forming adorn the proudest and most pretentious | the second class; and the rest of the magazine. What Mr. VARDAMAN is we people, who pay, of course, the remaining

of course are comparatively few in number, choose as many electors as the great mass of laborers. The same method of election is applied in the Prussian cities and villages, where the municipal councils are divided into three equal parts, one of which is elected by each of the three classes of taxpayers. The obvious result of such a system is to make party lines coincide with social distinctions; to array the different classes in separate political groups; and to accentuate the antagonism between rich and poor. That is why the Radicals are opposed to it.

There is no doubt that an assent to the Radical demands would put an end to the over-representation of the reactionary hierarchy and their allies. But Prince von Bulow, while he wants to check the Junkers and Agrarians, may hesitate to crush them, for he cannot tell when he may need to use them.

New York's Chop Houses. The destruction of the building which once contained a historic chop house need cause now no sentimental regrets. Although the walls that once enclosed the appetizing odors of broiling chops or eggs and bacon and of the savory welsh rabbit are still standing, the institution they sheltered has disappeared forever.

There have, of course, been eating houses to claim the benefits of the name. Usually they are conducted with the adjunct of a corner saloon, which is as little appropriate to a chop house of the older style as any place of refreshment could well be. Waiters speaking their New Yorkese with a foreign accent have supplanted the Irish American servitors of other days, and only the outward and visible remnants of the older traditions remain. It is not enough that German waiters serve the food. Cooks equally foreign to the character of the dishes they are making have supplanted the English artists who used to be thought indispensable to the existence of the chop house, and probably, as subsequent events have shown, were necessary to the institution in its best estate.

The chop houses of an older and maybe mellower age are as extinct as the old oyster house, which was probably more distinctively local than its companion in oblivion. It takes almost a long memory now to recall the oyster house with its glowing grill, its baskets of oysters before the door, its inevitable bottles of catsup, and its menu containing little more than the food of the sea. There still survive in certain parts of New York, notably in Greenwich village, restaurants preserving the aspect of those establishnents which once proudly held their own in the fierce light of Broadway. Perhaps these derelicts offer some of the delights which memory recalls as the charm of the old oyster houses although the present disappointing decline of the chief article they used to purvey makes that point doubtful.

That the mere bricks and stones of an old chop house are to be torn down is no longer cause for regret. Those who had tears to shed over the passing of the characteristic New York chop house should have shed them long ago.

Stephen Phillips's Ghosts.

Mr. STEPHEN PHILLIPS, an English poet and playmaker, has had trouble with his landlord. This was a habit of authors in the toil, envy, want, the patron and the jail period, but in these happier days writers live in palaces and circulate in automobiles. Mr. PHIL-LIPS is prosperous, amply able to pay his rent, but he says that he found the premises which he had hired occupied by other tenants, whose presence he objected to. In short, the house was 'haunted." A being described as "an uncanny little man" was seen by the lessee's daughter. We cannot take much stock in uncanny and creepy little men seen by the eye of childhood. With no disposition to deny, indeed with all readiness to admit, the existence, whether legally demonstrable or not, of "the little people," "the good people" and the whole population of fairyland, children's testimony thereto must be deemed too much the suggestion of their reading or of the stories of the nurses.

Mr. PHILLIPS, however, testifies in his own behalf in the suit brought after he had vacated the house on account of its ghostly occupiers. The library doors had a way of opening themselves, after the manner of the doors of haunted houses. Indeed, the regularity of the proceedings of ghosts, or whatever they are, in haunted houses is one of the most tiresome things about supernormal capers. Mr. PHILLIPS is supposed to have imagination, to have at least fancy; yet the ghost in his library is only a door opener, the colorless spirit of some footman, just as the uncanny little man may be accounted for as a "little wicked page" clinging to the scene of his devilries. Why are ghosts such infernal, commonplace bores? There seems to be no progress in ghostland, and the communications from it continue to be stale flat and unprofitable, the twitter and gabble of the weak and ineffectual.

We are aware of the reasons which the ghost seers and the spirit telephoners and telepathists give for a certain denseness in spirits; and for present purposes we may accept the explanations. The spirits are doing the best they can; and haunting houses must be weary work. The very monotony and stupidity of ghosts may be evidence in favor of their objective existence. Like other phenomena they are subject to order and law. Their trivial acts and chatter mark their human origin and incite sympathy. Why, save in a symbolical sense, is the opening of doors and windows proof of the work of viewless fingers? Why should a ghost, especially a ghost in a poet's house, waste his time, if time may be said to exist for him, in opening library doors, in driving a British householder out of his castle, in making work for the

bewigged guessers at the law? These questions are not wholly futile. Whatever tends to demonstrate the con tinuous inanity of life can hardly be regarded, the sceptics may say, as supernatural or supernormal; and all these alleged communications and cuttings up are but the dull reflection of human

dulness. What of it, if so it be? Can nothing be done for Mr. PHILLIPS, put to considerable expense by moving against his will? Must the landlord be paid though a house is full of ghosts? Ought not the court to 'ake judicial notice of the existence of haunted houses and ghosts? It may be difficult to make a ghost appear in court, but surely the almost universal testimony of the human mind in all ages, including the present, the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research in heaven knows how many volumes, the opinions of living and disinterested experts, many of them members of that society: surely a court could take these into consideration. If they establish merely a belief in ghosts and haunted houses, that is enough to let the poet out. He may be prone to imaginings; he may even be subject to hallucinations; but is the house lately occupied by him a haunted house? If it is, is he not justified? He was entitled to the sole and exclusive occupancy. He didn't get it. He moved out. Let the landlord collect from the ghosts.

Would the Lord Chancellor, would Jos CANNON, would "LABBY" himself-we assemble cool and sceptical heads-live in a house reputed to be haunted?

The Frequency of Earthquakes.

In the March number of the Geographical Journal a contributor, "R. D. O.." contends that in spite of the seismic upheavals at San Francisco and Kingston there is no scientific support for the supposition that earthquakes are increasing in violence. He admits that several destructive quakes in a twelvemonth seem to bear out that theory, and the phenomena may be disquieting to the unscientific mind: but the record of the seismographs proves that about sixtysix great earthquakes occur on the earth's surface every year. In 1900 there were 117 of them, and only thirtyfive in 1904. R. D. O. does not believe the tally for 1906 will greatly impress the scientific mind, although it will appeal to the unlearned imagination because "a small proportion of the great earthquakes of last year happened to find a large town within the area of their destructive powers."

Lost earthquakes, as we know, are not uncommon. The seismographs in dicate a violent disturbance somewhere, but if no city or populous district is affected it does not count as a portent Even the scientist is helpless to make deductions that impress the "popular imagination" when the quake occurs in "antres vast and deserts idle" in the great altogether, and so eludes identification. Earthquake tracing after the event ought, as an exploring profession, to interest the scientific men. It is manifest that seismology will be an infant industry as long as so many earthquakes go off unplaced every year.

We extract comfort in a general way from R. D. O.'s assurance that earthquakes are too common to worry about if we live in cities, and in a particular way we find his comparison of the California and Kingston disturbances quieting. Such extended quaking and shaking as ravaged coastal California is as rare as the blooming of the century rulsion was restricted to three parishes and back a little way in the Blue Mountains honest slumber did not lose a respiration. Kingston just happened to get in the way of trouble, and will probably be immune for several hundred years, if not longer. The shock at Casamicciola in 1883 tumbled the town down, but a few miles off the peasants walked unknowing and unharmed; and so of the Ischian earthquake, which was barely perceived at Naples.

To sum up, one is much more likely to be sought out by a stroke of lightning in his drowsy bed than to be involved in an earthquake that makes any record except on the seismograph. Thus we see that the prophets who give warnings of cataclysms in Cairo, Ill., or Skowhegan, Me., are trading on the nervousness of that instrument and our panic fears.

President Hadler's theory that the time and attention given to football "are taken away from forms of amusement and dissipation whose good is far less and whose evil is far greater than football is or is likely to be," is not flattering to the young men who do not play football at New Haven and it suggests that those who do must be sad rogues when there is no football to

The great flood which has wrought devastation and ruin in the upper Ohio Valley is due fundamentally to the cutting away of the forests on the watersheds of the Allegheny and Monongahels rivers.—Gifford Pinchot, Chief Forester.

Mr. PINCHOT is fundamentally right, but Congress will not be ready to transact business again until next January, and then the lesson will have been forgotten.

Who are these people that they should take is upon themselves to force pink lemonade down my throat when my whole being is crying out for the real thing? Away with this tomfoolery!—The Res William A. Wasson of Riverhead Town. Sir Toby Belch said it better, but he was

not a sociologist. At the dinner in Boston on March 15 when Mr. BRYAN was brought forward as the inevitable and ideal Democratic candi-

date for President in 1908, he harked back

to the campaigns in which he was so signally defeated and charged that WILLIAM McKinley was twice the beneficiary of a corrupted electorate. Our impression has always been that the tainted money was wasted in 1896 and literally thrown away in 1900, when, according

to Mr. BRYAN, "the largest vote was bought that ever was bought." In the second campaign Mr. BRYAN was never in the hunt at all, and his defeat was only less overwhelming than that of Judge PARKER wh n Mr. BRYAN's friends assisted in the capacity of cheerful undertakers. According to the ratio of declin in elec-

toral votes from 1892 to 1904, Mr. BRYAN is the logical candidate of the Democratic party next year. If he is the kind of candidate it likes, him it can have for the asking.

An Eminent Poker Player Impeached. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Please drop "old man greenhut." I wouldn't even write his name with a capital letter. He and his crowd are not gamblers; they are a bunch of robbers and mur-

As I have paid for THE SUN until February, 1908 and really enjoy your Sunday issue, this is quite an important matter with me. Tell the man who supplies those articles that I consider that it is difficult to imagine a man able to write at all who would describe such characters

WHY DID JACKSON MAKE WAR ON THE UNITED STATES BANK?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Why did President Jackson begin his war on the United States bank? Why did President Roosevelt begin his

and railways? Numberless historians have endeavored to answer the first inquiry. The latest biographer of Jackson thinks "the real truth may some time be learned and told," but he comes to no conclusion excepting that "she bank." whether constitutional or not, was "in its best days" useful, and that Jackson really thought it wrong for the

Government to aid "any chartered mo-

nopoly.

controversy with rich men, corporations

Mr. Roosevelt wrote in his biography of Benton that "the question had been worn threadbare in countless discussions." He expressed the opinion that Jackson's attack was on his own initiative and alarmed his prominent friends"; that Jackson cared for a fight because it was a fight, and that while there were excellent grounds for much of his hostility, yet many of his actions toward the bank "were wholly indefensible." Mr. Roosevelt leaves his reader to infer that a main purpose was to get a winning

issue in a partisan sense. He wrote (p. 115) that "an assault upon the money power is apt to be popular in a democratic republic, partly on account of the vague fear with which the poorer and more ignorant voters regard a powerful institution whose working they do not understand, and partly on account of the jealousy they feel toward those who are better off than

themselves. Whether or not that was the chief reason "the old man" builded shrewdly. He was up against formidable odds. The Supreme Court had decided that the bank was an agent employed by Congress in the discharge of governmental functions, and that Congress had the right to charter such a corporation, not because of any "expressed power, but because the bank was "neces sary and proper" for carrying expressed powers into execution. "Very well," an swered Jackson, "then I deny that the bank was thus 'necessary and proper.' " On that question he insisted that he and Congress had as good a right to an opinion as the

Supreme Court. History tells us the proximate and remote results. The bank was superseded under Van Buren by the independent treasury system, which has been gradually whittle away, the last Congress taking off another shaving. A business and trade depression ensued, something like that now thought by many to be on foot, which enabled Harrison to put an end to Van Buren, elected a Whig Congress in 1840, brought Webster and Clay back to power, restored "the bank" so far as Congress could, but Tyler prostrated it again by his two vetoes, till its substance reappeared a quarter of a century later in the national banking system. Of what avail had it been to resist a fiscal and economic demand of the times?

The inquiry returns: Why did Jackson begin the war? Has Mr. Roosevelt given the true reason? Was it party politics? The author of the latest and best biog-

raphy of Jackson dedicated it three years ago to President Roosevelt as "the embodiment in our times" of the spirit of his illustrious democratic predecessor in the White House, whose election achieved a greater political revolution than did that of Jefferson. In many aspects the dedication would be natural now.

But why did President Roosevelt begin his war on rich men, corporations and railways? It is risky for the country, as was Jackson's on "the bank" and on Biddle, its representative. Who, by the way, is to plant or rarer, while the Kingston con- be the scapegoat of the railways? Jackfor himself and Van Buren. Webster and Clay fell. Is there not as much historical reason to commend Jackson's Democratic war on "the bank" as to applaud Roose velt's Republican raid on rich men, corporations and railways? Is not the personal and party equation prominent in both? NEW YORK, March 16. FLANEUR.

THE SMALL GIRL FROM INDIA Vague About Her Religious Bellef, but It terested in the Solicitor-General's Wig. From the Trinidad Mirror.

The principal witness in the case of murder heard yesterday at the assizes was an East Indian girl; she was 8 years old, a small, sltm, lithe beauty with skin of brown velvet, big lustrous dark eyes that surveyed the whole court and took stock of the learned C. J. without a blink, and the prettle little mouth imaginable. Bare armed, attired in typical East Indian robes, and bejewelled, hers was a presence as incongruous as it was illuminating in a

criminal court. But a grave question was raised: witnesses t murder cases had to be sworn; was this one old enough to understand the nature of an oath? The

learned Judge, with the assistance of the inter preter, essayed to settle the point, and the following conversation ensued: His Honor-Are you a Christian?

Mr. Pollard, for the defence-Your Honor, th terpreter did not put your question direct to the The Interpreter-Your Honor, she does not us derstand the word Christian, so I asked her if she

was baptized by a parson. His Honor (severely) -Put my questions to he To Witness (impressively) - Do you believe in a

Witness (trying hard to understand and be in terested simultaneously, and consequently looking rather baffled)-I don't know. His Honor (trying a fresh tack)-You know that there is a good place where good people go to when they die

Witness-Yes. His Honor-And there is a bad place where bad ple will go to when they die?

Witness-Yes. His Honor-And do you know which place you wi go to if you do not tell the truth? Witness (a study in amalgamated awe and in tellectual heroism, but withal slightly enigmatic)

They won't let me stay there. The learned Chief Justice looked puzzled, Mean while the potential witness turned around, yawned and then evinced an admiring interest in the wig and gown of the Solicitor-General, at the cost no small danger to her own equilibrium, which de pended for its maintenance on the steadiness of

the chair on which she was standing. tation from a law book which recorded Patterson I as having laid it down in Rex vs. Williams tha a child must be shown to know the moral obligation of an oath, its effect on her conscience and the consequences entailed. Religious belief was but a secondary consideration; he (Mr. Pollard) ventured to submit that the child might be que tioned as to the extent of her appreciation of ar

The Attorney-General-Patterson J. may hav known Londoners pretty well, but he never met a small girl from Indle. Mr. Pollard again interposed that it was neces sary to show some permanent religious idea. Eventually, after the girl had promised about

three times to tell the truth, she was sworn. ook the gunga lotah in the most approved fashion, holding it reverently with both hands It has yet to be decided, however, whether or no she believes in a God.

Bumble may have been right after all.

A wind comes over my heart, asthore,

With a shaking of silver wings. From the green, far hills I shall see no more, Where your morning linnet sings. There comes to me now, like a flutter of leaves,

The lilt of a tune and the tap of a shoe-My heart at the memory throbs and heaves Of the voice and the looks of you.

Over the wind vexed, sobbing seas My dream faint eyes now stray; I am borne by a lilt on the evening's breeze CHARLES L. O'DONNELL.

THE LIMIT OF EVOLUTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN - Sir: Your last correspondent on the subject of my letters treats the question lightly. Perhaps he is young, enjoying the morning of life, and thinking little of its close. On the mind of a student of history is deeply impressed the sadness of its page; the record of infinite misery and suffering as well as depravity, all apparently to no purpose if the end is to be a physical catastrophe. Comtism, while it bids us devote and sacrifice ourselves to the future of humanity, can apparently hold out nothing

I heartily accept evolution, the account given us by science as the origin of physical species, the human species included; though it certainly seems strange that, the chances being so numerous as they are, no distinct case of evolution should have taken place within our ken. But the theory apparently does not pretend to account for the development of man's higher nature. That there is a gap in the continuity of development or any supernatural intervention has never been suggested by me; but it does appear that there is an ascent such as constitutes an essential difference and calls

for other than physical explanation. In matter, said Tyndall, is the potentiality of all life. Matter is what we discern by our bodily senses. What assurance have we that the account of the universe and of our relations to it given us by our bodily senses is exhaustive, or that the moral conscience may not have another source?

Apart from anything more distinctly spiritual, where do we get the faculty of dealization? Is it traceable to physical

Unless the moral conscience has a source higher than mere physical evolution, what is to deter a man in whom criminal propensities are strong from indulging them so long as he can do so with impunity! Eccelino had a lust of cruelty. wrong in indulging it, so long as he had the power, which he might have had, with

common prudence, to the end of his life? I speak, as I have always said, from the ranks; and I am not presuming to criticise Darwin's theory as an explanation of the origin and nature of the physical man. But if the theory is to be carried further, and we are to be told that man's higher attributes and his moral conscience have no source or authority other than physical evolution, we may fairly ask to see our way GOLDWIN SMITH

WOMEN AS VOTERS.

An Opinion That Society Would Not Be Improved by General Female Suffrage.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I have ead Miss Alice Stone Blackwell's letter in THE SUN of March 11 and I cannot help feeling that she has again failed to meet my nished her with capital for her new letter.

the suffragists take sides much as they did pefore female suffrage existed. Hence, there has been no legislation which owed its existence to the preponderance of female over ence to the preponderance of female over male votes. This is in line with the idea which I have heard expressed by many good women; "Even if we did vote, we would vote just as our husbands do." It is only in so far as female suffrage changes conditions that it can weaken law. The question then arises, "Is woman suffrage merely useless, or is it also vicious?" In either case, why add it to our already complex systems of government? My acquaintance with feminine polemics, though somewhat limited, has in a measure prepared me to read without surprise Miss Blackwell's assertion that I "would most likely look upon the fact that women voters of Wyoming and Idaho have secured the repeal of the laws that formerly licensed gambling as only an added proof of the unfitness of

Wyoming and Idaho have secured the repeal of the laws that formerly licensed gambling as only an added proof of the unfitness of women for the ballot." Now in all fairness, is not this exposition of my opinion made upon grounds which are somewhat a priori?

Really, I do not see why any one should be grateful for laws save as means to an end. As a clergyman I should certainly be grateful to any one who could and would put a stop to gambling and its attendant vices by some means at once effective and righteous. Now, I cheerfully concede that these anti-gambling laws are largely the result of feminine agitation if not of feminine votes. I cheerfully concede that these anti-gambling laws are largely the result of feminine agitation if not of feminine votes, but I think that persons who know the ropes will bear me out in the assertion that there is just as much gambling in Wyoming as there ever was and that the attendant vices are more generally associated with it than before. Such laws, as I have before shown, only tend to weaken law as a means to a righteous end.

As a clergyman and as a socialist I have given careful and I think sympathetic study to this question of female suffrage. I have read the arguments of Mill upon which you so ably comment in your issue of March II. I am still convinced on grounds historical as well as prophetic that female suffrage would not better the condition either of the female sex or of society in general.

J. C. M.

NEW YORK, March 13.

The Exchange.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I beg to call your attention to the following extract from the editorial "The President and the State of the Country," published in THE SUN of December 28, 1906: He has accomplished many good things, things

that make for good and for which good men will be ever grateful, if they have the opportunity to be grateful. He has brought to light the secret and the criminal practices of railreads and other corporations, but he has done it with such excitement and such superfluous circumstance as to upset the public mind, derange the sober course of and effect a minimum of practical good. exchanging the strenuous life for the turbulent life we have not done well.

Recent events in this neighborhood have recalled to my mind the above mentioned extract from your editorial WALL STREET, March 16. CONSERVATIVE.

The Storer Case.

That unimpeachable and authoritative Roman Catholic periodical the Tablet closes a thoughtful and dispassionate review of the Roosevelt-Storer episode as follows:

These, then, are the principal incidents of the whole affair, established beyond a question of doubt by copies of the correspondence that passed of which has now been given to the public copies of the correspondence that passed, most only fair that the other side should be heard, in to two faithful and devoted Catholics who have always served, and will continue to serve, the Church of which they are members, but who have never in the smallest degree sacrificed their political honor to their religious objects, or been guilty of the diplomatic treachery of which they are accused. It is easy to raise the cry of "eecl intrigue," but it should not be hard in this instance to silence it. There can be no question in the mind of any who read the correspondence and the notes quoted above that the Ambassador or his wife transgressed in the smallest particular any detail of diplomatic etiquette, still less that they were guilty of what would be nothing but a crime against one who was both their civil superior and their friend in using his name without warrant. If there was any fault it was that of doing their utmost for their Church as well as for their country; and Catholics at least should have nothing but sympathy with them in their sorrow.

Room for Oriental Servants. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: "Suburbanite's" idea of Japanese and Chinese servants for men of his type is a very good one, but Patrick and Bridget no longer work as domestics. They give up cheerfully to your Oriental servants. They have gone far higher. Our smartest and noblest men in America to-day are descendants of Patrick and Bridget, and of it they are all proud. RRINECLIFF, March 15. M. E. K.

> The First Spring. Through the ether far and blue, With a cunning motion whirled And a low, insistent hum, Reeled our world.

By the self-same practised hands, Cast with countless other stars, Wound with even greater speed Turned red Mars. Belted Saturn in its groove

On its spacious orbit bound Like a dervish swift revolved Round and 'round. Then all knew that it was spring.

Sign that winter's season stops For the high gods in their play Spun their tops. MCLANDBURGH WILSON

A LIGHT MORNING'S WORK.

Having run five mites, walked seventeen ridden twenty-three, put up the 100 pound dumbbells 101 times, knocked the stuffing out of the punching bag, had thirteen bouts with Professor Stub Clamps, the middleweight champion, taken four ice cold baths and eaten half a Smithfield ham, two dozen of eggs, and a gallon of milk for breakfast luring which he discoursed on the "Duty to be decent," the President was in high good umor and form; and when he came into the office Loeb saw a busy day before him. Work began at once. "Mr. President," said the secretary, "the W. C. T. U. appeals to you for help to restrain the growing tendency of youth to irreverence and cigarettes; also for legislation to prohibit the collection of cigar bands by children under twenty-one also to abolish alcohol by executive procla mation or otherwise.

"Fill in the blank message, Loeb, protection to youth and citizenship, form 13 "Mr. President, the Amalgamated Enter gress to forbid the use of firearms by the mile tia and of billies by the police in the case of labor debates; also for the disfranchis

of scabs. "Use dignity of labor blank; add hot and heavy on enforcement of law, avoidance violence and rights and duties of the deceived

employer and employed. Anthracite coal is \$7 a ton in New York Mr. President.

"Instruct the Secretary of War to seize the mines at once. "Owners of mines request you to leave

possession of their property, ten them porarily at least. "Order them to come to the White House at 11 sharp Sunday. They need a talking to, Loeb, they need a talking to."

"The Ministers' Association of Toad Hill. Mass., reports marked decline in attendance at Friday evening prayer meetings. Will you do something to increase it?" "Tell the Governor of Massachusetts to order the young ladies of Toad Hill to go to the

prayer meetings. Also have the sharpshoot ers' classes in the schools transferred from the evening to the afternoon. "The Women's Congress appeals to you to put an end to polygamy in Mohammedan

countries. "Write them that monogamy is the foundation of the home, and that I shall at once send an ultimatum to all the pluralist Sultana on the list, except those in our colonial possessions. We must be tender with existing ties, Dilate on that, and differentiate in

sular from colonial polygamy." The Bryan and Anti-Injunction Club of the Ozark Mountains views with alarm the in-creasing tendency of the Supreme Court of

the United States-Write them that there is only one Supreme Court and that it sits right in the White House Increasing tendency! Is there a Democratic gibe there, Loeb? Am I getting fat again?" Oh, no. sir. The American Educational Association asks your aid for the development of educational facilities."

"Send them my complete works. "The Tuolumne and Seattle Railroad directors respectfully remonstrate against your action in reducing their rates to half a cent a

"Stop their infernal trains altogether until these people come to their senses. Telegraph. Or, stay. We must be just, Loeb Justice and not passion is the thing to all interests. Write them that until further orders they are to pay at the rate of a cent a mile for all freight and passengers carried by them. We must conserve the great conservative interests while never losing sight of the

demands of the people. "The College and Preparatory School Athletic Association asks if you will favor compulsory baseball in all public and private

schools "If I favor it? Loeb, am I so misjudged Am I a mollycoddle? Five hours required athletics in every school, Loeb. The physique of a nation is the indispensable basis of its morale, the source of its strength in

war and prosperity in peace. "The Alton B. Parker Constitution Preservation respectfully submits that respect for the Constitution is being undermined and that the encroachments-

"Write them a sharp letter; combine Wallace form and Dear Bellamy, Alton F Parker! Humph! These gentlemen may find out in the course of two or three thousand years that I'm the Constitution, and pretty well preserved. Ha! Ha! I think anybody that tries to encroach upon me will get into rather

serious trouble "The New England Historic-Genealogical Society requests a copy of your pedigree. "Well, you know how to make it out the exact facts. Tell 'em I'm of Dutch-Irish-German-English-Scandinavian-French-Italian -Russian-Polish-Jewish-Swiss-Quaker-South-

ern - Northern - Western - Eastern - Cavalier -Roundhead stock-and that each element in my ancestry is more important and dearer

"Cable from Emperor William, Says be fears he shall have to fight Great Britain at once. Tell him and Edward not to dare to las

a hand upon each other. Let them wait till they hear from me. I will scalp them both if they refuse to arbitrate. "Only sixty-three letters from Senator Beveridge to-day. "He has the grip. Give them to the cook

for fire lighters. "Sixty-eight petitions from the Third Term "Write them that they are causing the

President great pain. It's time for lunch, Come over. There won't be more than 300 people to-day."

Artist's Revenge on a Boor TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN - Sir: My ferry boat

was held Wednesday by the fog until every seat was full and nearly every inch of standing In the crowd was a well dressed woman of about 30. Suddenly, in a quiet tone, she asked a lust move she repeated her question, calling his alic tion to the conspicuous sign, "In this cabin mea must not remain seated while ladies are standing." He sneered and "supposed he had no right in the cabin anyway." She told him it was the "ladies" cabin." He was getting uneasy, but defiant. She repeated her question at intervals every two minutes. Finally he offered his stat is another woman, who refused it. He then shifted in his seat and tried to read his paper, Suddenly, sm ing, she whisked out her sketch book and quick drew his face. It was him all right, but she shower him up for what he was-a bully prizefighter trying to pose as a gentleman.

Senate Gavel Handleles From the Washington Herald

It is an odd fact that the gavel used by siding officer of the Senate has no handle. like that used by the Speaker of the House. contrivance, modestly ornamented, of cylindrical shape, and about four inches long. In wielding the Vice-President has to hold the gavel in his hand as if it were a small hammer without a handle How the custom originated of providing the Vice-President with a handleless gavel is not known. though the oldest Senate attaché cannot remember when it was otherwise, just as the oldest Senate attaché cannot remember when the gold Vice-President's raised desk was not du every morning, although no statesman now pair conizes that once popular box for a genti

From the Marine Journ

Almost all the icebergs seen in the north Allanda ring June are products of the coa formed from the ice field that had filled the indentations of that coast the previous winter icebergs come from farther north. in of Baffin Land, those of August come farther north, and though fewer in num those of the earlier summer are larger in From the coast of Labrador may be seen an e procession of these ice mountains cor the north and taking their way majestical

waters and climate of the south Atlanti What Cambridge Has Escaped.

From Blackwood's Magazine. For two things, however, modern Cambridge ought to be supremely thankful-firstly. university has not been made a dumping gro for "Rhodes Scholars"; and secondly, that man Carnegle has mercifully bestowed his unwel-

Defined. Knicker-Berries are here ocker-Straw ball for spring's appearance.